

Distinguished Achievement Awards

Undergraduate Students of the Year 2017

The criteria against which nominations for the Undergraduate of the Year are judged state that:

“The nominee should have made an exceptional contribution to the life of the University, contributed significantly to the development of the curriculum or enhanced other students’ experience at University through activities such as peer support, student societies, or work with central services such as Recruitment and Admissions. Alternatively he or she should have coupled excellent academic achievement with either major external activity (top level sport or music) or have overcome major difficulties.”

Amy Hilton, School of Health Sciences, FBMH

Amy Hilton has just completed her BSc in Speech and Language Therapy. Amy is described as a role model for other students and a true ambassador for Speech and Language Therapy and peer support.

Amy was a coordinator for her course’s Peer Mentor scheme from Year 2, becoming senior coordinator in her 4th year.

She received a prestigious “Giving Voice” award as part of a national campaign run by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists to raise awareness of communication and feeding difficulties and the work that Speech and Language Therapists perform.

Amy embraced this campaign locally to create and organise a variety of events and engaged with the University and wider public to raise awareness of a range of communication difficulties and to raise money for charities that support individuals with such difficulties.

She found time for all of these things while being a high achieving student both academically and clinically.

Maria Beatriz Correia Santos, School of Social Sciences, FHUMS

Beatriz Santos has just completed her Philosophy programme in the School of Social Sciences.

Beatriz is described as being an outstanding philosopher whose academic performance is the best achieved by an undergraduate at her level in Manchester; by the end of her second year she had contributed to academic conferences, published a paper in an undergraduate journal and won numerous awards for her ideas.

On top of this she has made a much wider contribution to her department and to the life of her fellow students through her work as a student representative, President of the Philosophy Society, peer mentor and student ambassador.

Her talent, commitment, energy, sense of responsibility to her colleagues and her modesty make her a brilliant example of a Manchester student and an amazing prospect for a glittering future career in philosophy.

Jakub Szczesniak, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, FSE

Jakub Szczesniak has just completed the third year of his Electrical & Electronic Engineering Master of Engineering programme.

His academic performance has been outstanding with his marks in years 1 and 2 averaging at 85%.

In addition to his sustained academic excellence, Jakub has been involved in a number of extra-curricular activities and, in so doing, has proved himself to be an exemplary ambassador for the University.

These contributions include being co- founder and chair of the Institution of Engineering and Technology On Campus Group. This society enhances the student experience and improves employment prospects with networking opportunities and field trips, etc.

Jakub also played a significant part in arranging the University's participation in the Congress of Polish Student Societies in 2015. This was a major undertaking and the event was so successful it was recognised as Society Event of the Year by our Students' Union.

He also volunteered for Care4Calais and Help Refugees.